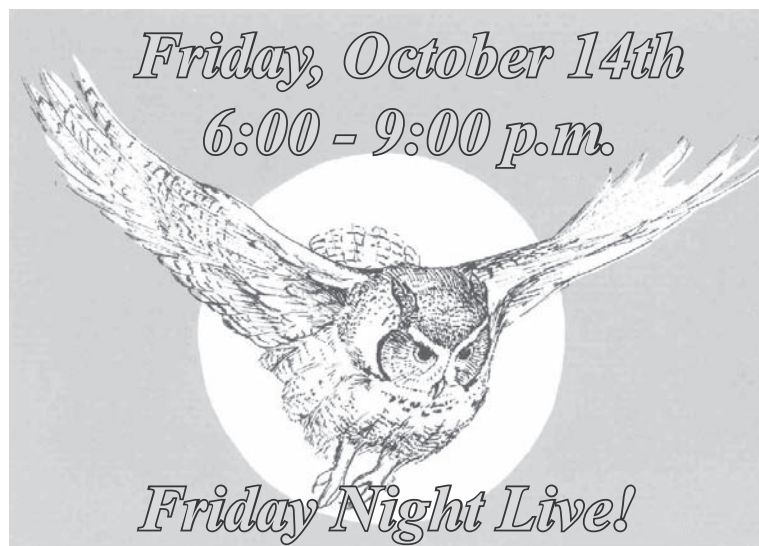


BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours change this month 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during Central Day Light Time and 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. through Day Light Savings Time.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268**



OWLS!



The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 19 October 2005 Number 10



Owls

Owls are usually nocturnal hunters, so imagine my excitement at seeing one sitting on a fencepost with a field mouse clasped tightly in its talons! I was walking on a local trail early in the morning when I saw this awesome sight. It is one that I won't forget.

Throughout history, the owl has been seen as both friend and foe of people. Prehistoric people drew pictures of the owl on cave walls. Ancient Greeks and Romans gave them religious respect while Medieval Europeans saw the bird as an omen of death. Throughout time they have been thought to be a symbol of wisdom.

Today we know that "wise old owl" is a misnomer. Although they are interesting and useful birds, they are not particularly intelligent. Owls are important because they are predators which prey upon animals that typically have a high reproductive rate, including many species of rodents. Without these and other predatory animals the populations of mice, voles, rats, and other prey animals could get out of hand.

There are eighteen owl species in North America. Eight of these owl species are native to Missouri or visit here. The Great Horned Owl and the Barred

Owl are the most common year-round residents, with the Eastern Screech-owl a less common year-round resident. The Common Barn Owl is an extremely rare year-round resident and is on the endangered list. Other owls that might be spotted here are the Northern Saw-whet Owl, the Long-eared Owl, the Short-eared Owl and during some winters the Snowy Owl.

Of the Missouri owls, only the Great Horned Owl has a thriving population. The others are thought to be declining in numbers. There are several things you can do to benefit owls:

- Keep large hollow trees and old buildings when possible, especially if owls are nesting in them. Protect all nesting sites.
- Place nesting boxes for barn owls and screech owls.
- Spring-loaded traps are best for controlling rodents around your house or garage. If you must use pesticides, or mouse or rat poisons, use conservative amounts with care. Owls can control your rodent pests to a degree if you encourage them to live around you.

To learn more about Missouri owls, join us for a special program - Friday Night Live: Autumn Owl Scramble on October 14th; 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

-Carol Barclay



Burr Oak Woods Junior Naturalist Program

I can't wait to tell you about this new program! To become a Junior Naturalist you will follow activities outlined in a special workbook designed just for you (available at the front desk). The great thing about this program is that you can complete the activities with your family at your own pace. You will play Nature's Bingo, do a habitat study, plan your own wildlife habitat, participate in a treasure hunt, become a nature educator, and much, much more! Upon completion of your notebook, you will earn a cool prize and a certificate that will identify you as a student of nature and someone who cares about the natural world. Check out the Junior Naturalist exhibit in the nature center for more information. You will want to get started today!

Third Annual Photography Competition

You asked for it! Our third annual photography competition is here! Completed entries must be submitted to the nature center no later than December 15th. Photographs will be on display during the month of January. All photographs must be taken at Burr Oak Woods. Subject matter may include landscapes, wildlife, people or events at Burr Oak Woods. Photography contest rules and regulations will be available at the front desk beginning October 1st.



The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

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Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!

O c t o b e r P r o g r a m s

PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

2 Sunday

What lives at Burr Oak Woods

Mini Bio-Blitz

Join us as we examine the remote Burr Oak Woods north area. We will explore just as Lewis and Clarke did 200 years ago. Your children will work as scientists today as we take an inventory of the flora and fauna, documenting the diversity of this natural area. Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes that are appropriate for cross country exploration of a natural area. Please call to register. **9 - 12 / Noon - 4:00 p.m.**

8 Saturday

Babes in the Woods:

Discover the Autumn Woods

Your child is never too young to be outside and enjoy what nature has to offer. During this class we will share ideas and activities to help your infant or toddler enjoy and learn from the autumn woods with its changing colors and falling leaves. Please call to register and bring a stroller.

Infants - 2 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

8 Saturday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Woodworking for Wildlife

Come and join us as we build a birdhouse. This program will cover the different bird species and their specific housing requirements. We provide the materials and tools. **This program will be presented in sign language.** Please call to register. **All Ages / 10:00 a.m. - Noon (at the Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center)**



9 Sunday

Adults Only Hiking Club:

Parkville Nature Sanctuary

Join volunteer naturalist at the beautiful Parkville Nature Sanctuary hiking the trails close to the historical town of Parkville, Missouri. The trails offer many opportunities for wildlife and nature viewing. The trails are moderate in difficulty. The sanctuary was build on an old working farm that belonged to Park University. Dress apporiatly and bring water. Please call to register. **Adults Only 20 and up / 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

9 Sunday

Families:

Exploring the Autumn Colors

Changing colors are only one of the joys of an autumn forest. Come and enjoy the beauty of the woods as we hike the Bethany Falls trail. Dress for the weather and bring water. Please call to register. **Families (with children 5 and up) / 1 :00 - 2:30 p.m.**

11 Tuesday

Adults Only:

Choosing and Planting

Landscape Trees

Fall is a wonderful time to plant trees in your landscape. Come learn what species do well in our area and how to plant them to ensure survival. Urban Forester Chuck Conner will discuss all aspects of planting and caring for new landscape trees. Please call to register. **Adults Only 20 and up / 6:30 8:00 p.m.**

12 Wednesday

HomeSchool:

Nature's Classroom

October is the perfect time to explore the outdoors and there is not a more fantastic teacher than Mother Nature herself. Your student will have an opportunity to scavenge, survey, and discover a Burr Oak Woods that most will never have the opportunity to see. You have to look very closely... Dress for being outdoors. Wear sturdy shoes for cross country exploration. Please call to register.

3 - 5 or 6 - 8 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

9 - 11 or 12 yr and up 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

13 Thursday

O.A.K.S. Outdoors:

(Older Adults Keeping Strong Outdoors)

Air Rifles 101

Have you always wanted to learn how to shoot a rifle? Then this class is for you! We will learn how to handle a firearm safely, aim and shoot at a target. Please call to register. **Adults 55 and up / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

14 Friday

Friday Night Live:

Autumn Owl Scramble

Join us for an evening of owl-ish fun! We will learn more about these incredible nocturnal hunters by prowling the woods for owls, storytelling by the campfire, owl calling contests, discovering owl moon, and much more! There can be no better way to enjoy a cool autumn evening than exploring the night woods with your family! It's sure to be a hootin' good time! No registration required. **All Ages / 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

15 Saturday and 16 Sunday

Glorious October

Join a naturalist for an incredible interpretive hike as we enjoy the trails at Burr Oak Woods. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Please call to register. **Adults and/or families (with children 7 and up)**

Saturday

10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Habitat Trail both loops-1 1/2 miles

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Hickory Grove Trail-3 1/3 miles

Sunday

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Bethany Falls Trail-1 1/3 mile

18 Tuesday

O.A.K.S. Outdoors:

(Older Adults Keeping Strong Outdoors)

Fall Colors Stroll

Meet us at Burr Oak Woods to board the van heading for Weston Bend State Park. We will meander amongst the bluffs of the Missouri River to view the fall colors in full glory. Bring a sack lunch. Dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Please call to register. **Adults 55 and up / 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

22 Saturday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Owl Be Seeing You

October reminds us of owls and other night time creatures. Discover the amazing adaptations of owls, and make an owl craft to take home. **This program will be presented in sign language.** Please call to register. **All Ages / 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

22 Saturday

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Join us for our story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required. **2 and up / 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

27 Thursday

Little Acorns:

As the Cold Wind Blows

The days are growing shorter and the nights are getting colder. This can only mean one thing... WINTER IS COMING! What do our wild friends do to prepare for the long cold days ahead? Come learn some animal winter strategies and compete in our winter survival challenge. Please call to register. **3 - 5 yr / 9:30 - 10:30 a.m., 11:00 - Noon or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

29 Saturday

Missouri Conservation Frontiers:

Trick-or-Treating for Birds

Okay...so birds cannot go trick-or-treating, but we can give them a treat anyway. We will welcome the winter birds by making various bird feeders to put outside as a little treat to birds during the winter months. Bring a clean 2-liter bottle. Please call to register. **All ages / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

30 Sunday

Families:

The Owl Pellet Mystery

The mystery of what an owl ate for dinner the night before lies within the owl pellet. We will become scientists and solve the owl pellet mystery by learning about the owl and what the owl pellet will reveal. Please call to register. **Families (with children 5 and up) / 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

Important Notice to Visitors:

Burr Oak Woods Managed Deer Hunts

•Archery Managed Hunt will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; November 7, 8 and 9.

•Muzzleload Managed Hunt will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; December 5, 6 and 7.

•The area will be closed to public traffic and walking the road ways and trails for your safety. The Nature Center will be open and available to the public.

November 1 Tuesday

Adults Only:

Prune Like a Pro

Most trees fail in storms due to pre-existing defects that could have been corrected with proper pruning practices. Urban Forester Chuck Conner will teach you how to train newly planted trees as well as proper pruning for mature trees in your landscape. Please call to register. **Adults Only 20 and up / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

Nature Shop News

Nature Shop Featured Item

October

Conservation Trails

Regular Price \$5.⁰⁰

Featured Price \$4.⁰⁰

Heritage Card Discount does not apply.



Natural Happenings

- It's time to take down those hummingbird feeders. All our small feathered friends have flown south for the winter.
- We should be seeing fewer and fewer snakes out and about. They are preparing for winter hibernation.
- It's time for a nature drive! Fall colors peak mid month. Get out and enjoy the beautiful trees before the leaves fall off. Pick up a Fall Color brochure for more information.
- WELCOME BACK JUNCOS! Our favorite winter birds are returning from Canada.
- Young spiders can be seen "ballooning" on windy days.
- Brown bats are gathering at cave entrances to mate and hibernate.

female dark eyed junco



male dark eyed junco



OCTOBER PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

**816-229-4448 28900 E Argo Road
Grain Valley, Mo 64029**

**Website for Lake City Shooting Range and
Outdoor Education Center**

www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call **816-229-4448** for information and to register for these programs.

Cable Restraint Certification

Saturday the 1st
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Tree Stand Safety Class

Tuesday the 11th
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Basic Waterfowl Hunting

Tuesday the 18th
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Beginners Muzzleloader

Thursday the 20th
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Basic Shotgun Reloading

Monday the 24th
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Metallic Cartridge

Reloading-Rifle

Wednesday the 26
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at burroakwoods.org